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Issue: 08-46

November 14th, 2008

- **BC's exports dip 0.7% in September**
- **Manufacturing sales up 2.3% in September**
- **New motor vehicles sales jump 4.5% in September**

The Economy

- **BC exported \$2.9 billion (seasonally adjusted) worth of total products in September, only slightly off (-0.7%) from the previous month.** Increased exports of forestry (+10.5%) and energy (+5.1%) products were completely offset by substantial declines in the value of exports of industrial & consumer (-15.7%) products as well as machinery & auto equipment (-7.4%). Shipments of agriculture & fish remained virtually unchanged compared to the month before.

Exports to the US stalled in September with increased exports of forestry products (+3.2%) being dampened by a drop in the value of exported energy products (-4.0%). Exports to destinations other than the US dipped 1.5% as demand for industrial and consumer goods made in BC fell sharply (-28.4%).

Canadian exports dropped for the second straight month in September to \$42.5 billion, down 1.0% compared to August. The downturn was led by a retreat in shipments of industrial goods, automotive products and energy. Exports to the US fell 1.3% as did shipments of goods to Japan (-3.9%) and the European Union (-4.2%).

Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **Manufacturing sales in British Columbia were up 2.3% (seasonally adjusted) in September, making up ground following a 1.7% drop in the previous month.** Non-durables manufacturing got a substantial boost (+4.5%) as a result of stronger sales from manufacturers of food (+4.6%) and pa-

per (4.8%) products. Makers of plastics & rubber (+3.4%) and beverage & tobacco (+1.7%) products also made gains in September. Increased sales figures for the primary metals (+7.7%), non-metallic minerals (+5.1%) and transportation equipment (+8.0%) industries acted to offset a 2.3% drop in shipments from wood producers, leaving manufacturing sales of durables relatively flat (+0.5%) in September.

Canadian manufacturing sales inched ahead 0.1% with the transportation industry (+1.1%) reporting the largest gains in September. Manufacturers in Alberta led the way in provincial gains, registering a 4.2% rise in sales with petroleum & coal producers recording a 7.3% increase in sales despite a 4.5% drop in prices. Quebec manufacturers saw a 1.6% increase in sales, largely as a result of increased production from aerospace manufacturers. Sagging demand for motor vehicles from Ontario helped push that province's manufacturing sales lower (-0.9%) for the second consecutive month.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia's dealerships sold 14,903 (seasonally adjusted) new motor vehicles in September, an increase of 4.5% from August.** This was the first increase following three consecutive declines in monthly sales and was mainly a result of a jump in the number of North American-built trucks.

Nationally, new motor vehicle sales were up 2.5% in September with an increase in sales of both North American-built and overseas-built passenger cars. Provincially, higher

Did you know...

Three in ten cell-phone users in Canada sleep with their phones next to them at night. Strange bedfellows, indeed!

Data Source: Ipsos Canada

sales in Alberta (+4.2%), BC (+4.5%) and Nova Scotia (+10.8%) accounted for more than half of the increase in the national total. However, PEI (+12.1%) had the largest month-over-month increase in sales. Dealerships in Saskatchewan were the only ones that reported lower sales (-1.5%) in September.

Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia's New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose 0.2% in the second quarter of 2008 compared to the same quarter a year earlier, slightly less than a national increase of 0.3%.** While BC's quarterly index growth was outpaced by the Atlantic region (+3.0%), Quebec (+1.4) and Ontario (+0.6%), it was larger than the registered decline (-1.3%) in the Prairie Region.

On a monthly basis, Vancouver's New Housing Price Index was 124.1, up 1.4% in September compared to a year earlier. Prices in Victoria inched slightly upward (+0.2%) to 118.6. Across Canada, new housing prices rose the most in St. John's (+22.7%) and Regina (+22.7%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC housing starts were down substantially (-13.9%) in October, contributing to a national decline of 3.1%.** Provincially, Saskatchewan experienced the largest drop (-33.8%) while PEI and New Brunswick were up 20.0% and 11.1%, respectively. Housing starts in BC are expected to total 35,800 in 2008, 8.7% less than in 2007 (39,195), compared to an expected national drop of 7.1%.

Data Source: CMHC

- **Dollar volume of residential sales on the MLS® in BC fell 54.0% to \$1.7 billion in October, compared to the same month in 2007.** There were 50.8% fewer residential listings posted in BC and, on average, residential prices were down 6.5% to \$420,259.

Data Source: BC Real Estate Association

Education

- **As of December 2005, British Columbia had one of the lowest university participation rates (38%) in Canada, although most (80%) attended some sort of postsecondary education.** Other than BC, only Alberta had a lower proportion of young people attending university (34%). BC's university dropout rate among young adults (aged 24 to 26) was 18%, slightly higher than the Canadian average (16%). BC college (28%) and other institution (26%) dropout rates were also higher than the national average (25% and 22%, respectively).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

National

- **Over the past decade, Canada's resource sector has surged as prices and profits grew well into 2008.** This year, energy became Canada's leading export. So far in 2008, natural resources have accounted for 65% of total goods exports, up from 45% in 2002. While resource exports have grown, non-resource exports have declined 17% since 2003. The booming resource sector is largely due to higher commodity prices. This is reflected in the fact that although *nominal* GDP in the resource sector has risen from 13.3% in 2002 to 16.1% in 2005, *real* GDP in the resource sector has actually fallen over the same time period. Surging commodity prices also increased profits and attracted increased foreign investment. Now that commodity prices have fallen, these increases have been partially reversed.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Tourism generated \$19.7 billion of revenue in Canada in 2007, up 4.3% from 2006.** The increase was largely attributed to higher domestic tourism spending, which was up 6.1%. Overall tourism GDP (at basic prices) for 2007 was \$28.6 billion, a 5.9% increase from 2006. GST and PST were the largest sources of tourism revenue for both federal (50% of total tourism revenue) and provincial (60%) governments.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

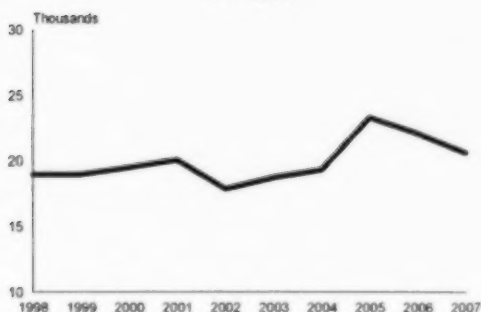
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Female Landed Immigrants in B.C.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has recorded that over 199,400 female immigrants landed in B.C. between 1998 and 2007.

Female Immigrants Landed in B.C.
1998 - 2007



Seven of 10 major source countries for female immigrants are in Asia

Asian countries are the major source of female immigrants to land in BC. Among top 10 source countries for female immigrants, seven of them are in Asia.

Top 10 Source Countries for the Female Immigrants Landed in B.C. -2007			
	Number Reported	% of Total # Female Immigrants	% growth 07/98
China	4,535	22.0	47.4
India	2,716	13.2	21.3
Philippines	2,217	10.7	32.4
U.S.A	1,323	6.4	141.9
Korea	1,218	5.9	32.1
England	925	4.5	121.3
Taiwan	918	4.4	-61.8
Iran	662	3.2	-21.3
Japan	468	2.3	8.8
Vietnam	309	1.5	56.9

China has been the largest source of immigrants for over a decade. Although recent data shows some declines, the number of Chinese female immigrants to B.C. is 47.4% more than in 1998, accounting for 22.0% of the total female immigrants in B.C. Over the same period, female immigrants from Vietnam (+56.9%),

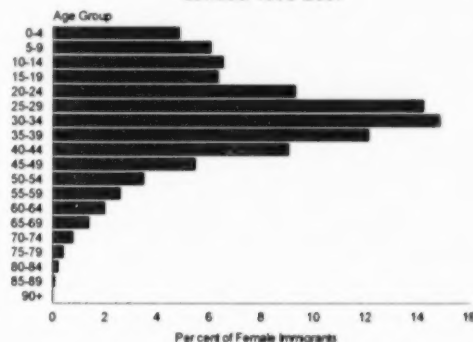
Philippines (+32.4%), Korea (+32.1%) and India (+21.3%) also posted double digit growth, while the number of female immigrants from Taiwan landed in B.C. only fell substantially (-61.8%). In addition, U.S.A. (+141.9%) and England (+121.3%) sent a lot more female immigrants in 2007 than in 1998.

The median age of the female immigrants to B.C. increased between 1980 and 2007

The median age of the female immigrants has gradually increased from 26.05 year in 1980 to 29.7 years in 2007. On the other hand, recent landed female immigrants are still younger than the total female population of the province with a median age of 40.8 years in 2007.

During the last decade, over 50% of female immigrants were aged between 20 and 49 years old at the time of their landing in British Columbia. The school aged (5-19 years old) female population accounted for 22.2% of the total number of female immigrants, while only 1.6 per cent was aged 65 years or older. The fact that B.C.'s female immigrants are inclined to be younger than the provincial population is closely related to the composition of the immigrant classes.

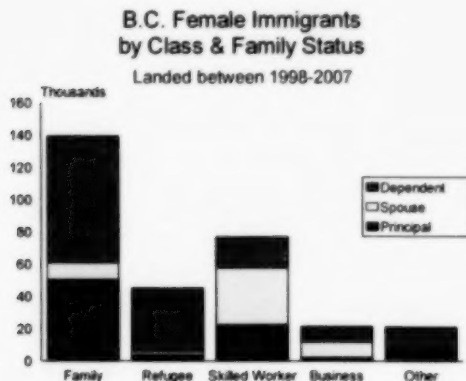
Age Distribution of B.C. Female Immigrants
Landed 1998-2007



The proportion of B.C. female immigrants were higher under the skilled worker and business classes

CIC categorizes immigrants into several different classes. The proportions of female immigrants identified as the skilled worker and business classes are relatively high. Female skilled workers landed in B.C. are likely to be either younger singles or middle-aged individuals with families. Within the skilled worker class, 29 per cent female immigrants were the principal applicants (the person whose qualifications were assessed during the application process), 38 per cent were spouses, and over 33 per cent were dependent.

A similar structure within the class can also be found in the business category, in which the majority of business women landed as spouses of the principal applicants (46.6%). However, those female immigrants in the business category tended to be established business people in their middle ages accompanied with more dependents (42.6%).

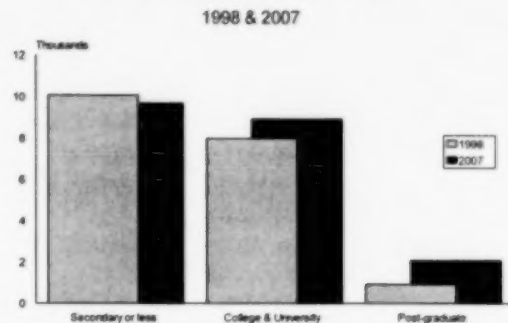


More educated female immigrants landed in B.C.

The educational level of female immigrants arriving in B.C. was higher in 2007 compared to 1998. The number of female immigrants who had post-secondary education was 10,975 in 2007, representing a significant increase of 23.3% over 1998. Within it, 151.9% more women immigrants landed in B.C. with a Master's degree. The number of female immigrants having Doctoral degree more than doubled (+223.5%) in 2007 compared to 1998, reaching a historical high of 262.

Higher education level for female immigrants landed in B.C. is another reason for the increase in the median age of female immigrants. Most female immigrants would have to study more years to obtain higher education in their own countries, which in turn skews the age structure of female immigrants arrived in B.C. to be "older".

Female Immigrants' Education Level



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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago	
		Jul 1/08	
BC		4,381.6	1.7
Canada		33,311.4	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 6)		% change on one year ago	
(BC - at market prices)		2007	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)		192,528	5.4
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)		164,583	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita)		37,574	1.6
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)		24,878	3.3
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month	
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep		3,412	2.3
Merchandise Exports - Aug		2,903	3.4
Retail Sales - Aug		4,742	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Sep 2008)			
BC		3.3	2.0
Vancouver		3.5	2.2
Victoria		2.9	1.5
Canada		3.4	2.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month	
(seasonally adjusted)		Oct '08	
Labour Force - BC		2,434	0.1
Employed - BC		2,311	-0.4
Unemployed - BC		123	10.1
			Sep '08
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)		5.1	4.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)		6.2	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Nov 12/08	Nov 14/07
Prime Business Rate		4.00	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year		6.35	7.20
- 5 year		7.20	7.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Nov 12/08	Nov 14/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$		1.2295	0.9487
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$		0.8081	1.0348
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago	
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		Oct '08	
BC		795.65	6.2
Canada		793.76	3.9
SOURCES:			
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate		} Statistics Canada	
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates		} Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics	
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca			

Data and Health Mapping Browser

A new thematic mapping tool on our site will display a wide selection of BC Stats' data holdings. For a fee, BC Stats can create similar mapping tools for your organization using your own data for display on our site.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/maps/browsers.asp

2008 Small Business Profile

The 2008 edition of the Small Business Profile is now available. This report offers information on small business in British Columbia, including counts of establishments, employment, revenue, GDP and exports.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

2008 High Technology Input Indicators

The 2008 edition of the Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available. This report looks at the inputs to high tech and can be considered a companion report to the Profile of the BC High Technology sector, which examines the sector's outputs.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, September 2008

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, October 2008
- Exports, September, 2008